Unconfirmed Minutes of MoDA Curriculum Consultative Committee

A meeting was held at 10.00 a.m. on 27 May 2011 in the Seminar Room, Department of Pharmacology

Present: Robert Henderson (Chair), Lesley MacVinish (TC Secretary), Mike Edwardson, Rik van Veen, Prof Mike Herrtage (Vet School), Dr Kevin O’Shaughnessy (Clinical School), Dr Fraz Mir, Virginia Searle (Notes)

Apologies: Dr Wood (Clinical School), Dr Martin Hughes (supervisor at Magdalene College),

On Sabbatical Easter (and therefore unable to attend): Ruth Murrell-Lagnado

Not present: Robin Hiley, Tai-Ping Fan

1. Minutes
The Minutes of the meeting of 21 May 2010 were approved

2. Matters arising

MVST course is under review and is likely to change for the admission year 21012-2013. This means that a new MVST IB course would start in 2013-2014. The nature of the revision to both MVST IA and IB is still under discussion, but it is clear that Options will not continue within the MVST IB timetable, so from 2013-2014 onwards there will be 5 extra pharmacology lectures (endocrine, chemotherapy, antibodies). The format of exams will change.

There was an extended discussion about the drugs list (which had been raised as a matter of concern in the course of the Learning and Teaching Review). There existed strong sentiment that a Drugs List should not form part of the revised 2013 MoDA course.

Replacement of RvV’s lectures while on sabbatical.

JME will take over the lectures for the duration of the sabbatical then hand them back to RvV. RMH will take back his lectures, as will CRH.

3. LTR

Good practices identified by the LTR Committee were:
   1. The College Supervisors’ CamTools website for Part IB
   2. Proactive approach to responding to student feedback
   3. Tailoring lectures on the same theme to different audiences

Recommendations:
   1. The CCC should have more formal, joint decision making meetings with students and make recommendations to the Teaching Committee. We should have stronger links with the clinical school and more clinical material in the course as students finding difficulty relating pre-clinical pharmacology with clinical studies. However the Clinical School, although agreeing with this, may not
have the necessary resources. **Action: FM and KO to talk to Dr Diana Wood and Dr John Benson about this issue and report back to the Teaching Committee**

The CCC should have more formal, joint decision making meetings with students which could make recommendations to the Teaching Committee.

2. It was suggested in the meeting that perhaps there was no need for CCCs – we could amalgamate with the Teaching Committee and have external input at those meetings once a year. We could find out what other departments do about this. **Action RMH to take to Teaching Committee for discussion**

3. There should be more liaison between the Department and supervisors. ZS and LJM have set up and run a course for new supervisors however the role College Liaison Officer (CRH) could be strengthened. **Action RMH to discuss with CRH**

4. It was noted that it is very difficult to get supervisors who can supervise pharmacology as our graduate students come from varying backgrounds (eg biochemistry, physiology, chemistry). Directors of Studies should be more involved.

**AOB - none**
Unconfirmed Minutes of NST1B Pharmacology Curriculum Consultative Committee

A meeting was held at 9.00 a.m. on 27 May 2011 in the Seminar Room, Department of Pharmacology

Present: Robert Henderson (Chair), Lesley MacVinish (TC Secretary), Rik van Veen (Course Organiser), Mike Edwardson, Robin Irvine, Brian Billups, Lora Heisler, Zoltan Sarnyai, Chris Langmead (External Lecturer), Siolian Ball (External Supervisor), Virginia Searle (notes).

Apologies: Dermot Cooper

On Sabbatical Easter (and therefore unable to attend): Steve Hladky

Not present: Robin Hiley, Tai-Ping Fan

1. **Minutes**
   The Minutes of the meeting of 21 May 2010 were approved.

2. **Matters Arising**
   Supervisor training sessions had been run and students have a sheet in their handbook to indicate their supervisor.

3. **Replacement of RvV’s lectures while on sabbatical. Course Organiser arrangements**
   JME will take over the lectures for the duration of the sabbatical then hand them back to RvV. RM-L will be the new Course Organiser.

4. **Lectures**
   Students had expressed the wish for more drug discovery lectures. Barry Furr already does one. It was suggested that Chris Langmead could do two more (he agreed to this). As there would now be three lectures on the subject, it should be examinable. CL would be willing to set a short question. **Action LJM to liaise with CL when arranging 2011/12 timetable**

5. **LTR**
   Good practices identified by the LTR Committee were:
   1. The College Supervisors’ CamTools website for Part IB
   2. Proactive approach to responding to student feedback
   3. Tailoring lectures on the same theme to different audiences

   Recommendations:
   1. The CCC should have more formal, joint decision making meetings with students which could make recommendations to the Teaching Committee.
      It was suggested in the meeting that perhaps there was no need for CCCs – we could amalgamate with the Teaching Committee and have external input at those meetings once a year. We could find out what other departments do about this. **Action RMH to take to Teaching Committee for discussion**
2. There should be more liaison between the Department and supervisors. ZS and LJM have set up and run a course for new supervisors however the role College Liaison Officer (CRH) could be strengthened. Action RMH to discuss with CRH

3. It was noted that it is very difficult to get supervisors who can supervise pharmacology as our graduate students come from varying backgrounds (e.g., biochemistry, physiology, chemistry). Directors of Studies should be more involved.

6. LKH to keep the diabetes lectures.

7. SB made some useful timetable suggestions which will be considered for incorporation into the 2011-12 timetable.

8. AOB
   There was conflict in the timetable as our last lecture was at the same time as an exam which another department has scheduled during the last lecture week. Action: LJM to raise this issue at Biological Sciences Committee.